

HENRY JOSEPH DARGER-

"THE HISTORY
OF
MY LIFE"

Microsystems, Inc.

VOLUME

SIX

Microsystems, Inc.

to sudden death. On August 15 1915 the feast of the Assumption the country from where news could come was shocked by meagre telegraph reports that the great supposed to be Tornado ~~and~~ proof sacred Heart Convent was destroyed by a five thousand two hundred and eighty miles an hour windstorm. All communications have been destroyed by this terrible upheaval of the atmosphere.

All the south of this country began to receive detailed reports showing that the entire ~~three~~ and a half of the upper part of the Sacred Heart Convent had been blown to nothing and that probably 600 children and ~~university~~ had also disappeared the same way.

"There was not that number in the convent" is claimed, "Only 2500 in all with 4500 children" The statement continues "a great blanket of death had enveloped the convent and the storm around the convent had destroyed the entire community within the space of more than a second. (an outbreak of laughing) There had been no time for panic. One second of agony and all was over."

The two vast thunderstorms which were following each other were acted upon by an inland of rushing cold air between them.

This no doubt came through a new storm forming between the

4310 The La Salle Telegraph Company reported nearly a fortnight before that something was going wrong with the elements and that the elements had dropped something like green hail. It could have been really possible that the two storms had at first been one and through some reason a break in the storm resulted.

Through this conflicting winds rushed in, coming into contact with some other disturbances caused by the violence of the thunderstorms an immense of overwhelming energy and electric disturbance was generated.

Soon it became generated to a windstorm with a wind or rush of fury of 5280 miles an hour up in the storm zone. It is impossible to conceive its latent force. The area which confined it could not hold the increasing volume of such wild air. It sought an outlet and first formed that crazy strange child head. The cap on the top of the head proved too strong.

It attacked the weakest part which when collapsing to the ground was adjacent to Johnson town.

4311 The section of the face where the tongue protruded out was unable to withstand the strain and blew out. As long as it takes a projectile to shoot through the air and drop to earth just so long it took the awful lengthening of the 'tongue' to fall thirty thirty miles away.

The consequent sweeping away of the part of the town must have proven that the generated speed of the wind that resulted in the death of so many victims was 5,280 miles an hour.

The very speed of the wind was instantly fatal. If the path of destruction is anything like that of other great tornadoes no vegetable or animal life can survive them for a second.

Unknown numbers of men, women swept to sudden death. Beautiful cities like Chester town lay up like tissue paper by the appalling wind scenes of suffering and devastation that beggar description. Our whole country and the rest of the world will be horrified by the appalling news of the greatest calamity of tornadoes when communications were cut off.

4312 be fully restored such is the tragic story of Chester Brown and other cities. There have been many tornado disasters in recent times but none so equal to this. The St Louis calamity was on a far less scale.

The dreadful Omaha did not result in an eighth part of the loss of life that has visited Chester Brown and other cities whose doom has been sealed by this dire calamity.

In a second in the twinkling of an eye as it were a multitude of human beings were plunged into the jaws of death. The finest residences ever built shared the fate of the most humble dwellings of the poor. Big buildings devoted to business the small and the biggest churches, the markets, the great supermarket, the convent, ships on the river all be thrown to the wind by the five thousand two hundred eighty miles wind.

No such appalling disaster distinguished by the suddenness of the blow, the number of the victims, the completeness of the annihilation has ever come to

the civilized world with such 4313 overwhelming and the hammering force of 5280 miles an hour an unknown number of souls sent instantly to eternity. All accounts agree that only a second was required to overwhelm Chester Brown with winds of that velocity killing one third of the population not only of this city but of a long section of the surrounding country towns farms and villages.

The first reports of the disaster were too incredible to be believed. Why did our Good God allow the most greatest tornado catastrophe, the most destructive the world has ever seen? This tornado was a most fatal and far reaching cataclysm being only equalled in recent years only by that of Krakatoa in the straits of Sunda.

And yet Krakatoa was no tornado. The force of the storm changed the configuration of the country all along the path of the storm.

It is really the greatest maelstrom of the air ever known. The crashing roar and the speed of its whirl, its churning motions set in

4314 air waves that travelled around half the country four times one way and five times the other. Every recording barometer in this country was

disturbed by the forceful whirl of this monster. It is said the noise of this monster was heard at Lincoln 162 miles from Chesterbrown.

It was felt at Galveston and at St Louis 350 miles away. The uproar of the tornado was heard over a sound zone covering one-thirtieth of this country of the United States.

Also it is said great confusion was created by the noise which destroyed or shook out all the windows of all the towns and villages as far as thirty miles raised a cloud of dust thousands of feet high covering fifty miles with falling debris of every description and created hell along all its course.

Out of the River I've seen it myself the monster tore up the remains of a wreck that disappeared in the

in the mud ten years 4315 before. With my very eyes I saw the big bridge across the river which is telescoped with its two halves, slanting down from each end in the river and floorless.

The river banks are contracted and the wharf which was Chesterbrown's pride now what is left of it remains a sad forlorn monument to the monster's ruthless strength a mishapen mass of badly tangled angles. And no one believes it had a strength of five thousand two hundred and eighty miles per hour? do.

All railroad lines had been most severely damaged, bridges are gone and progress is impossible for the embankments had been badly cracked, railbeds uped out and the rails spread in all places.

As I myself read the tornado after sweeping the part of Johnson Town in its path away moved past St. Louis side sweeping it and the supreme display occurred as it careened at Chesterbrown like a preliminary

4316 explosion, coming like a most
frightful convulsion which tore
away so much of the city its
full twenty eight miles of length
and three quarters of a mile of width
and scattered so much of its debris to
the winds.

In that final effort all records
of previous violent tornadoes were
broken. I read the noise was plain
heard at Alton where houses trembled
and windows rattled as if heavy
artillery were being discharged.

Indeed the thunderous hum
of the great tornado attracted people
at Rock Island probably a 100
miles away.

Let us say for example the
news continued in the news that
the tornado hit Chicago, as resonant
as that from Chester Brown. It would
certainly startle not a little the
inhabitants of the territory of Wisconsin
far and wide.

The ears of dwellers in the
neighboring southern parts of
the States of Michigan, Indiana
Iowa would receive a consider-
able shock. The sonorous
waves would roll over to

4317 Kansas, Arkansas and
Kentucky they would be heard
in Southern Ill. Missouri would
not be too far to the Southwest
nor southern Minnesota too re-
mote to the North. Everybody truly
knows of the range of the tornado
sounds.

The Committee Commercial Agency at
Michigan City that far away from
Chester Brown reported at between
four thirty and five during a rain
storm there they heard a strange
humming sound for more than a
hour that was simply deafening
the vibrations of which broke many
windows.

At Rock Island the people heard
noises which led them to suppose
that a distant town was savaged by
cyclone, relief committees put off
with rescue crews and relief men
for what proved to be a futile
journey.

The roaring was heard not only
all over Southern Wisconsin more
than eighty miles from the scene
of the devastating storm but over
a yet wider area.

At Davenport north west of Moline
and at Moline itself every one
heard the awful
sound. There it was like the
howling of countless dogs at their
very doors again at Quincy.

4318 ~~gunny~~ guincy All the people were so alarmed that the government sent off committees on trains to seek the cause of the strange disturbance. They came back with the news they could not get to the place as all communications near by were destroyed ~~was~~ by some kind of awful storm.

At that time also the people at Joliet thought they heard a humming sound of a million electric fans at one time. At the same time the people at Kankakee were aroused by what they thought was the roaring of hundreds of lions at one time which lasted for more than four hours, finally passing off into the east.

The time and other circumstances showed that here again was the loud tornado heard this time nearly fifty miles south of its navigating path.

And yet there is full trustworthiness as we all know that the sounds were heard over greater distances. Roaring noises were heard like a steady thunderous hum at Bloomington Illinois and also at Alton and Lincoln Ill. from Chester Brown. It was imagined

that some freight trains were in distress and search was accordingly made. But most remarkable of all the Mayor and Chief of Police made a statement from St. Louis in which they had the newspaper state that for three hours strange humming sounds were heard coming from the north and caused the curiosity anxiety and apprehension among all the people there who crowded streets and house tops to baffle the more. Much excitement so was among them.

Obviously some time was needed for the sounds to make such a journey. Obviously on the basis of the known rate of velocity they must have been heard at both St. Louis and Kansas city four hours after they started from their source. All the time the twister came from its starting point till past Janelle the hoard noises were heard actually ~~echoed~~ ^{echoing} from Janelle, La Salle east to Moline and Davenport. Who then can say it did not have a suction force of five thousand two hundred or eighty miles an hour. And it is interesting to study the comparative time of the Omaha tornado with the Chester Brown tornado of August 15th.

4320 It is found that the Omaha
Tornado had indicated serious
trouble, it seemed to have been
a sort of stormy petrel to tell where
there was to be disasters in other
parts of the country. How about the
Dayton Ohio flood, the worst this
country ever seen.

I don't attempt to assign any real
scientific reason for this but I cite
it as a fact that the St. Albans
Tornado appeared six months before
this one and weather over nearly
all over the country was or grew very
restless before this dreadful storm
happened here.

There is one thing which you
all know as much as I know and
to the stupefaction of all survivors
outsiders, and those familiar with the
spot the great tower or steeple clock
of St. Marys Church, one the build-
ing not in the storm's path
remained intact as if to show
the precise moment of the
disastrous storm passing by
at that time and this sinister
indication deeply affected all who
saw it. The report that this
church steeple clock had its

hands stopped at quarter to 4321
five which confirms that the storm
passed by at that time. I believe
the vibration of the tower stopped
the clock and no one can get it
to go again as because of the
disaster there's no means to get
up there to reach it. There is another
thing in the papers.

There came darkness and a
strange mighty wrenching and
shaking of the air with a noise
that sounded as if all the powers
of the universe were struggling
high above you. This is another thing
that out to prove the speed of the
Tornado, whirl and rush of wind.

I know everybody has read that
the Superintendent of the United
States Coast and Geodetic Survey
reported that the delicately suspended
magnetic needles at the two coasts
and geodetic survey observatories
the one situated at Cheltenham
Md, sixteen miles southeast
of Washington and the other at
Baldwin Kansas sixteen miles
south of Lawrence were disturbed
beginning at about the time
the storm fell to the earth
and devastated west Johnson town
and all the way to Zanesville.

4332 is reported to have occurred
The wave of the 5-280 mile an
hour wind struck Chesterbrow at
quarter to five.

The magnetic disturbance at
Cheltenham Observatory at a time
corresponding to $\pm 4:30$ Johnsontown
Local time at the Baldwin
Observatory at twenty to five Gleason
city time when the storm hit the
Gleason Orphanage.

The delicate apparatus in-
stalled at these observatories is so
arranged that it registers auto-
matically by photograph means
the minutest variations in the
direction and intensity of the
earth's magnetic force. It is a very
note worthy fact that it was

ever thought that any seismol-
ogical observatory that usually reports
a seismic disturbance should
be disturbed by the noise and
vibration of this tornado.

No magnetic effects due to
tornadoes have ever been recog-
nized at magnetic obser-
vatories before.

Purely mechanical
vibrations caused by earthquakes
have been often registered by

433
the delicately poised magnetic needles.
Why were they thus disturbed
by the tornado, at raging through
Chesterbrow for instance it was
recorded not only by full
seismographs at various places
but also at the Cheltenham magnetic
Observatory of the Coast Survey.

I believe this tornado simply
caused a mechanical vibration of
the magnetic needles about their
near position of rest and later
all the time the tornado traveled
from Chesterbrow to New Jersey
whereas the disturbance beginning
near Johnsontown was a distinct
magnetic effect pulling the needles
aside from their usual direction and
lasting many hours.

Therefore this proves that a wind
speed of the wind as I mentioned
had the same effect on the
ground as an earthquake, and
the terrible speed of the whirl in-
creased the air still more and
more violently. That I'm sure
caused the strange effects and
disturbances on the magnetic
needles. Surely that proves
blew 6-280 miles per hour.

4334 This was indeed a horrible disaster and one which we may well pray not to see duplicated. Science however has no means of knowing that somewhere it may not occur again. I have read also that during the storm some men at horse back riding were a mile away obliged to dismount on a farm road and throw themselves on the ground road because the tornado shook the ground so violently that their horses or also themselves could not keep their

also the noise and vibration of this tornado shook the houses at this very town of La Salle and other towns near by as to alarm the inhabitants and drove them into the streets. Many windows were broken and as many of us have seen since walls cracked by the concussion of the air from that awful roar of the storm. The proof of the strength of the storm is what it did to the Park which the ruined faces. Here its effects were much more violent tearing up by the roots trees of all sizes and sweeping them away in the air.

like dust together with 4335 the crowd of people all the animals and whatever came within its influence. This will account for the immense number of floating trees seen in the river and also Fox lake, and farm lands also covered.

of the animal house snake and bird house, monkey house, conservatory, and outside zoo grounds, only the small mammal house is remaining. It was not in its path. It also accounts for the twisting of the strongest iron grill fences ever made and the wrenching around of great masses of stone.

a curious phase of it all is the absence of wooden floors, doors, roofs, window frames and furniture of brick building partially left standing. Everything of wood is gone. It is the ruin of ruins. Even the kitchen and outbuildings of the yards are gone even there is not even a shred of wallpaper left or decorated plaster which was the only determining point in deciding which is the inside and which the outside of a brick building. The remaining wall of the convent chapel are heaped up with rubbish and what had

4336 become of the fine brass
bells, the largest though it
weighed probably a ton and
a half, did they disappear like
the rest. The fine big big
altar carved of marble with its
brass lamps and candles is
a partial wreck and of any other
ornamented portions of the build-
ing not a shred remains.
as is visible.

That on that bright
afternoon of the feast of the
Assumption and morning too
crowds would come to the
churches and come and go
is presupposed and there was
also to be an afternoon
procession with music and also
religious banners and the
company may have been
gathering for that.
but in time of trouble and
anxiety the call of the churches
to their children were not at all
unheeded, and many of these
who were to be victims leaving
early Mass, or going to the later
service were better prepared
for death than they could

have been at any other 4337
time. It is said the city of
Chester Brown was a miniature
hanging garden, it fronted the
Magolia River and the railroad line
with a pretty expanse of which
nothing is left except scattered
debris.

The large park in the center
along the river and a large beau-
tiful pleasure ground at the north-
east of the town and the big
handsome low convent with a
statue of the Virgin and of Christ
at each side. Near the entrance
gate were features that drew
attention from tourists as they
thronged the streets and saw
the charming panorama unfold
themselves the houses of many
colors shining in a sun of
Tennessee brilliancy flecked by
tree shadows and flecked
by flowers of all the colors that
ever grew.

It is found that even the very
pavement along the riverfront of
Lincoln Park is gone. No one
would have imagined that this
River front had a long row of
tall stout shade trees and a
railroad line and benches for
travelers and idlers to rest or
recline on. Not a hint of
them is to be seen. The statue
of Christ lies more than two
miles away face down where the

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4338 band played not a cricket
chirps - the big powerhouse of
the city has disappeared. Even among
Mexico?

Because it is a ghosted
what is left of big shop buildings
there are no odd survivals cups
and saucers rows of tumblers, toys
for children images of china tin
and plaster. One farmer reported
of hundreds of cracking horses
on his property.

How hard it is to realize that
there was such a magnificent city in
any life at all. One had pictured the
city gay in sunshine with its crowds
dressed in colors fairly dazzling
to visitors from all over the country
with myriads of beautiful flowers
with ever oleander and flamboyant
hibiscus amaryllis and beautiful
rose bushes holy haunts blazing
in the gardens as a thing that
never existed in the same land
a century with this mournful
hideous desolation.

Here was the Tilden Hall
a club, the big Supermarket,
the supposed to be tornado
proof convent and Angel Guardian

Norma Peeth
Arnold U.S.C.

Room 105 - Grade 6
Nov 20, 1968 4339

Confucius



exchange, here beautiful hotels
there stood the eighteen story
Webster Hotel, over yonder was the
main grand theater, also con-
sidered a most substantial place
as true seating 2,500 hundred
back of it was St Joseph
Hospital, Grant Hospital, County
Hospital, back of them was
the County Jail, out there
by St Boniface, cemetery was
the Bishop's palace here was
Augustana Hospital here lots of
big markets, St Vincent's
Church and Rectory and
factories and the Dennis
Building. Hardly nothing
of them are left.
all are blent in one downfall.

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4340 although a great statue of the virgin was hurled from its pedestal which statue overlooked the river above the middle grounds of the Angel Guardian exchange all the way to Chesterchire the pedestal did remain a white mark a guide for river navigators as of old. Did not 5280 miles an hour of wind do this?

coal yards lumber yards dry good stores whose destruction was complete as scattered dust - Here and there one does detect the odor of drugs as if they were all spilled in one cellar and on roads here is the marked smell of chemicals though there never were chemical factories in Chester - brown because they were not allowed to be built there.

In this city of Sa Balla as you all have seen every window on the side towards the passing tornado had been smashed by the overpowering vibration.

"What do you think of this?" I asked all the members at the meeting.

The description is completely correct, perfectly correct in everything but that five thousand two hundred an

eighty miles an hour 4340 of the wind speed" they all said in one chorus. That's out.

If that was said one laughingly you'd find what is left of Chesterbrown somewhere either on New Jersey or floating on the sea.

I'll bring this paper to the editor of this news paper company to morrow and have him look it over" I said.

Another member said:

"The existing state of affairs during the forming and striking of the storm at Johnson Town was so graphically given to me from my niece Mary Ann Versan that having it here I'll read it to you all.

"My dear uncle Henry this late afternoon the whole population of Johnson town is on the alert and every eye is directed towards a strange phenomenon of child like the face of a strangling child and convulsing body and frantically outstretching arms. The face appears in awful agony with tongue sticking way out.

But nobody thought or were afraid that that "choking child cloud" was taking into itself

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4342 to burst forth and destroy every city and town from our little of Johnson's all the way across the country and across New Jersey. Who ever thought a tornado could come from that?

All of the inhabitants of our town are crowding the streets on roof tops and porches to see it.

At that moment as the tongue seemed to stick out further I heard four distinct shocks,

They were so great that we supposed at first that there was someone at the door and the little Maryoe went and found no one there. The first sound was very loud and the other three reports were so great that the glass in our ~~weather~~ windows went to pieces the house was rocked and the dishes were thrown far from our shelves.

The city overhead is covered with a strangely crazily acting canopy of dark cloud and a strange smell of sulphur is in the air. Many of the

people were obliged to wear wet handkerchiefs over their faces to protect them from the strange smell.

My husband assures me that there is no immediate danger, that often clouds do take on the craziest shapes and when there is the least sign of danger we will go down into our deep cellar.

If that strange cloud becomes very bad we shall go down into the cellar at once. The papers in our city are asking "this morning if we are going to experience another severe thunderstorm similar to that which struck this town last night?"

My niece husband and little girl Maryoe, were not in that part of the city that was so totally swept away, but they saw the twister devastate that part of the devoted town on that fatal August afternoon on the fifteenth of the Assumption. She in a letter I also got her told the dread story of ruin and death. She wrote;

"Updalling sounds were coming from that protruding tongue and awful lightning and thunder. I saw the north west

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4344 of Johnson town destroyed
It was blotted out by one
great strange of rush of cloud.
nearly all the people there
were killed and injured at once
over twenty excursion yachts
and other ships in the river none
escaped. They were blown out
of the water and scattered every
where thrown in all positions like
a wild tempered child throws his
toys.

All that part of our town was
blown to pieces. During the
storm there was a constant most
deafening humming roar.
The sound of the storm trail-
along the ground was like a
mountain being blown to
pieces.

All this time it seemed as
if the belly part of the child
shaped cloud was ripped out
and there came at the town
something like a solid swift
churning wall of cloud.

The cloud connected with
the ground rounded like
like thousands of cannon
but as steady as a lion's roar.

The horrid blowpipe of wind 4345
wind was hitting on the
city as quick as a lightning
flash. It was like a hurricane
coming out of hell. I saw it
first strike the southwest of
the town broadside and sent it
flying like dust.

The uproar broke all the
windows of our part of the
city missed with its vibration.
I ran end to end that part
of our town was vanished
before our eyes, and the air grew
full of flying debris of all
kinds and we were in the
thick of it.

The air was torn into huge
whirlpools of debris that careened
towards the northeast one of
these swirling whirlpools of
debris swung above the St
Vincent's school building and
pulled it up high with the
suction. Then the main storm
smashed her and she dis-
appeared from sight right.

That blast of wind lasted
only a small minutes. It wiped
out everything in its path.

Before the awful 'tongue'
struck the city the streets
and roofs were crowded
with people. Why didn't they
flee to safe places before
it came at the city. They

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4346 had thirty minutes to
safety after the "tongue" fell out of
its mouth" after it torn on
through that part of the town no one
building or living being was to
be seen. I can never forget the
horrid "tongue" which wiped out
that part of Johnson town. I never
believed a tornado could be that
strong.

A long description
by a witness of the
fateful August 15th by a
survivor of the Angel Guardian
Orphanage.

The most length account are
by those given by rescued
superior workers of this asylum.

He came on duty before
5 A.M. on the morning of the
assumption, attended the asylums
morning mass and came on
duty at seven A.M. The
greatest difficulty was really
experienced in getting things
in order on the play grounds
the rain of the first thunder
storm refusing yet to slacken

the air being 4347
thick with falling
rain, lightning and thunder
abnormally severe and the dark-
ness intense. Until near noon
appalling thunders were issuing
from the clouds and we were
shrouded in darkness.

Until noon the rain fell
thickly. The best way in which
the scene was described by some
of those who lived to tell the
story is to give the narrative
of the chief superintendent a survivor.

From his story a good
memorial idea of the terrible
scene can be formed. From the
various accounts given of the
terrible record breaking tornado
by Henry Doyan head man of
the asylum came the following
description by Father John O'Connor.

"I saw the asylum destroyed
that awful afternoon. It was blotted
by one awful nearly two minutes
awesome kinetic fury. Nearly all of
the children who were caught out
in the playgrounds were all killed

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4348 Out of thirty six vessels on
the river belonging to the Convent
and Asylum authorities not one
escaped destruction I started the children
who wished to be out for the play
grounds early Sunday afternoon when
the unusually long thunderstorm had
let up and it had stopped rain-
ing so long.

We at four could see at some distance
a strangely shaped cloud face of like
a strangling child with tongue sticking
out when suddenly the tongue stuck
out further, the cloud seemed as if in
mortar agony and then there was
a shroud into which the tongue
fell and disappeared into the
shroud.

No one yet had any idea of danger
though even that far we could actually
hear that shroud yell bloody murder.
I said to the nearest kids attracted
by the sound: "What in Heaven is that
going on?" The head Sister Cammilla
was in her office and all the
kids outside staring stared at
the distant shroud as if they were
seeing a show.

The spectacle to us not knowing

yet what it was, was really 4349
magnificent as it approached nearer
we could distinguish a rolling
and bobbing leaping leaping of
the lower part of the shroud as
if itself belched from the
distant horizon in huge volumes
of some long strange and gushed
high in the air.

Enormous black clouds over
head were surging in all
directions and many children
looked upward at them I believe
in curiosity and astonishment if
not fear.

There then spurted high into
the air strange uneven undulated
shapes, while the shroud now
and then waved one side to
the other for a moment and
something leaped suddenly
higher up while far away there
was a smashing up sound
and an awful loud humming
in the air.

There was a constant muffled
roar. There came sounds like
long roaring series of loud
explosions as soon as we
took notice. We did not know
of it at the time, but then
the Gleason Orphan Asylum
was being wiped out. The
building had been blown to
pieces and scattered away.

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4340 with all its inmates! I here
was no warning they say.
First though as I had heard, the
west side of Gleason city was ripped
out and then the asylum. At quarter to
five in the afternoon it came straight
wards us like a solid wall of
cloud and there was a sound from it
below as if all the dogs in this
country put together were howling at
their utmost at this one spot added by a
terrible sucking sound.

"A tornado" I yelled "Get to the
basements quick kids."

Like a crash of thousands of cannon
cannon the upper parts of the convent
disappeared. Then the wave of
horror was on us and over us like a
lightning flash. It was like a
hundred strongest hurricanes in one.
I saw it strike the first of the
Orphan buildings and tear them to
shreds like cardboard boxes.

It capsize a tall powerful tower
building and parts crashed to the
ground or flying fragments the
rest disappeared away with the
wind.

The horror rolled in mass

of debris upon the convent
Asylum Church building and 435/
the shipping in the river. The
church vanished vanished before
our eyes and the air grew stifling
hot and we were to be in
the thick of it. Wherever the awful
wind struck the ground went up
in clouds of earth. The play-
grounds were torn into huge
whirlpools swirling under the play
ground equipment and pulled
them upwards with the awful
suction.

They were flung in all directions
with the speed of solid shots
from cannons and then the
awful hurricane smashed the
main building and it went to
pieces and into clouds of flying
brick and mortar dust and clouds
of flooring and other timbers. The
storm swept off all the trees
and scrubbery as if they were
sticks. Telephone poles were also
swept off as if they were cut
off with a knife.

Sister Camilla was the
only one who was not killed
outright. She was caught by
the terrific wind, clothes torn from
her and mortally injured. She
yelled to us to get the terrified
children into the basement
but before this could be

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4352 Before this could be accomplished the biggest building was almost upreid by the whirlpool of wind and the main wind carried away the roof like paper. Sister Cammilla was overcome by the horror. She fell unconscious from the open doorway and toppled to the ground.

I can never forget the horrid choking whirlwind which enveloped us all.

We were rushing what number of children we could into the basement.

Hearing the awful noise of the storm and seeing the full fury of the storm coming we tried to get the children into the basement, but most of them were in panic and confusion and sought shelter wherever it was possible, rushing into basements, jumping into catch basins and even into outhouses in vain.

I got hundreds of kids into a basement but the wreckage from outside was blown by so swift a movement of the air that they were swept very violently and swiftly through the doors and

windows slamming us 4353 and hurting us badly. I was terribly injured by these fragments of debris about the face and hands but managed to get a number in nevertheless. I then despite the wild rage of the immeasurable tempest mustered a few men who seemed able to move. I ordered them to get the children in, leaped for the eastern side porch.

One of the most terrifying conditions was that the atmosphere was charged with clouds of debris and dust and it was dark.

It seemed small to say that the scene was terrifying in the extreme. The scream for heating water was rushing from the boiler room and the screams of the children trying to reach shelter were terrible to hear.

The cries for help were all in vain for we could do nothing save let some of those we could first gather together. I witnessed the entire destruction of the orphanage.

The fierce tempest enveloped everything in every quarter with such rapidity that

it was impossible that very many could be saved.

crowded with and suffering assistance could

the survivors among well as I was a injured first, and in the base- fragment of a left of a fragment re they had vainly at now the base-

of splintered blown in through over the basement the debris swept els and struck urns wherever they standing leaving scarlar imprint

myself from who were injured e dead, the others in a dreadful from their injuries of agony were of a total of hundred children as on ex the layers three hundred many more

d sister and

4354 As I said the day was turned suddenly to night but I could distinguish by the brightness of the least of ~~no sign of~~ the ~~the moon in it with some~~ ~~on egg~~ all producing a ~~perilous~~ ~~egg~~

the blinding lightning children still running distractedly about the playground.

All this time the storm was roaring the ground shaking and in the intervals between these terrifying sounds I could hear the cries of despair and agony from so many children who were to perish. Their cries and panicky rush for any kind of shelter added to the terror of the scene but it is impossible to describe its horror or the dreadful sensations it produced.

I though suffering the greatest agony of suspense succeeding in saving a quarter of a number of the children. The scene of ruin was deplorable after the "Calamity Sweetie Pie" passed on.

The exercising instruments of the playground ropes tarpaulins were gone and all the trees were swept away.

Most of the buildings were either gone or disintegrated shambles.

Dead and mangled up bodies

lay about the ground 4355 which was also crowded with injured helpless and suffering children. Prompt assistance could not reach them.

I mustered the survivors among the employees as well as I was able to attend the injured first.

Some we found in the basement of what ~~fragment of a~~ building was left of a fragment of a building where they had vainly sought for safety but now the basement were full of splintered debris that had blown in through the windows above the basement.

Through these the debris swept as through funnels and struck down the victims wherever they were laying or standing leaving on some a circular imprint of lacerated flesh.

I brought ten myself from the playground who were injured two of them were dead, the others survived although in a dreadful state of torture from their injuries.

Their screams of agony were heartrending. Out of a total of twenty-five hundred children which includes on ~~ex~~ the nuns and employees three hundred are dead and many more badly injured.

The head master and

4356 and my first and second
administrators my chief engineer
and my airplane super cargo

~~just for a meaning~~

George Campbell were mortally injured and died a week later in the best hospital, the streets far beyond were covered with debris strewn everywhere by the force of the tornado long range mighty explosion.

To go through those streets was practically perilous. It was not until the next morning that I was about to begin ~~thoroughly~~ for thoroughly to clear and search the or what is actually even left of the grounds for all the damage done by this 'volcanic' wind and to see how many corpses in out of the way places.

In one instance that morning I saw the body of a half naked person among the branches of what was left of an uprooted tree and it was not in the grounds either.

The body was horribly torn and lacerated as hit for two hours by a cat-o-nine-tails the most horrible of whips and one had evidently blameworthily the branches to die.

on disintegration

Dead and upped up bodies

The playground presented an appalling appearance of children and even nuns and

Convent

Arnold St. S.C.

January 16, 1964

Room 105 - 6

checking up

What was the main purpose of the castle?

others stripped totally naked by the fierce explosive force of the wind lay dead about the ground many children with their bodies, bellies and chest torn wide or torn away completely, and the crowd of injured, were also torn up every which way, helpless and suffering some of which may even die.

I saw to it that prompt assistance were rendered to the injured and the poor-tortured children hospitalized as soon as possible. I have omitted to mention that out of one hundred Sisters that was in charge of the Orphanage none survived.

It is said most of them threw themselves out of the first floor windows to escape the dreadful fate with the exploding building, but they met a worst one for it is an actual fact that wind rushing around the buildings was literally

them loose.

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George camp
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Dead and ripped up bodies

4358 so unbelievably strong that
they were never seen again.
The escape of myself and of
the children who reached the deep
basement of the main building was
miraculous. What was left of the
main building and everything else
looked as if blasted by a mighty ex
plosion.

Where it came from I do not know
but the torn up playground, as if it
was plowed very deep was covered
with a mass of fine dust many
inches in one of cement like appearance.
In some parts it lay two feet
deep. I found limbs of children and
large pieces of flesh.

I found portions of human flesh
when removal of the dead was
going on. A friend of mine Donald
Aurandico though suffering the
greatest agony succeeded in
getting a number of children to
safely in spite so many bodies
being scattered about by the horrid
winds and arms and legs flying
through the air.

I think the performance of
this good friend of mine was
most wonderful and the more

4359
and when I saw his pitiful
and horrid condition, I do not
understand how he kept up
yet when he arrived at Simon
Segres barn turned into a
hospital and medical assistance
was procured this brave man
asked the doctor to attend to the
others first and refused to be
treated until this was done. Some
friend of mine indeed,
and him and the children
we saved were the only persons
who escaped practically the horrible
death of the rest.

His nose too was lacerated by
the force of the awful wind.
As I might have said the
scene that presented itself on
the playground baffles all
description.

All around on the whole
playground were dead and dying
covered with debris from other
building. Forty five of the
dead children had their bodies
ripped so widely open that their
insides were almost gone and
thirty of them didn't have
bellies or chests at all and every
thing else gone.

What few was left of play
ground sports and exercising
instruments were found bores
of children wrapped around
so tightly you couldn't pull
them loose. There lay

4360 men women and little children and the appeals of the latter for water and succor were heart rending. When water was given them, they could not swallow, it owing to the insides of their throats being too filled with brick building dust or dust burned with the heated air of the tornado or the insides shredded by the wind forcing itself through their open mouths into their throats.

Never was such an unusual thing ever known to be done by a tornado before. I'd believe it blew 2580 miles an hour if such a statement could be proven, but it certainly must have blown 800 miles an hour if not a thousand.

During the insane fury of the storm the buildings were flying into dust the children were flung about like confetti and I was thrown against a tree even now remaining like a kicked football the wind being really strong even for a tornado.

I was then at once pulled very roughly away from the tree by a fiercer wind that flung a roof roof ventilator over my head with almost stunning force and still wearing it in a cockeyed fashion,

was swept through the playground like a piece of 4361 cotton and a current of wind suddenly coming around from another direction dashed me again like a kicked football against the tree, the vandal being very suddenly pulled from my head and sailed high away in the air.

I desperately clung to what was left of a large branch of the disintegrated tree which swayed me back and forth as it seemed a dozen times a minute. I'm not telling a fib, God knows its true.

At that instant the superintendent of the asylum was also thrown against the tree already so horribly mangled and disfigured as to be absolutely unrecognizable.

Afterwards he was in dreadful agony begging piteously to be put into the hospital.

After the storm some men picked up some wreckage which contained some bedding and a tool chest they constructed hastily a rude shelter in which they placed the superintendent. When seeing an upturned bed a man asked one of the men to go and fetch it. Three went to help him. Instead of returning to us, they got killed

4362 by a mass of wreckage fall-
ing on them from the shambles
of a big wooden building close to
the upturned bed. I injured as I was
and two men rescued their bodies
after getting the bed itself. We escaped
more falling debris worse than the
first just in time.

The groans and cries of the dying
for whom nothing could be done right
away were horrible. It seemed as if
the whole world had come to an
end not by fire, but wind. I then said
good bye to the superintendent and also
helped in other rescue work despite
my own injuries. What was left of
the main asylum building appeared as
if it had been blown up by an
underground explosion.

The mother who worked in
the asylum and her three children
were horribly injured but were
saved from the shambles of the
building but are not expected
to live. Her nurse told me she
was in the dining room when the
dining room employe called from
a window to her.

"Look at that awful tornado
coming for us"

She said she went to the window

Dead and injured

window and saw a vast mass 4363
of a black wide shadow like cloud
frightfully destroying the convent near us
and making a great series of most
loudst explosions sounds and hoarse
deafening humming sounds at the same
time. The dining room attendant and also
the chief steward ordered her to seek
some safe place saying it was
coming.

The nurse then rushed down the
steps with the older child for the
basement. She said to me she ex-
perienced a feeling of suffocation from the
sudden wind coming into the window
which was followed by a choking cloud
of dust. The building broke into flying
fragments which was swept away a man
though severely injured assisted the nurse
and the eldest little girl from the
debris and helped place them in Segres
barr hospital.

While this was being done her 7
year old sister died. The nurse brought the
child some water at great personal danger
but it was unavailing and she in turn
was mortally injured, dying falling after
of the wrecked orphanage. Shortly after the
death of the seven year old girl
their mother succumbed. Mrs. King and
the elder little girl were as said before
placed in Segres barr.

The nurse did not sustain serious
injury. She covered the face of the
little girl. The only woman known at
that time to have survived the
disaster was a negro. She was

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" 4366 She was found in a cellar
4364 of what had remained of
the building where she had
been for four days. She was
still alive but frightfully mangled
from head to toes. She died
afterwards in the degree hospital.

I will have to explain some
more so you'll know the full
rage of the storm.

And more about the awful thing
happening to the superintendants.

Every one of us workers were
having supper ahead of the
kids. I was standing by an
open window trying to watch the
children outside at play. I was not
looking at the storm clouds or at
first paying no attention to the
 queer sounds. But I guess the superin-
tendant was for he was by his
window of his office and the last
time I heard him speak when
he roared:-

"Get the kids into the basement
quick. A cyclone is coming."

I gave the orders to the men
and I think some of them did
'jump' to get down stairs to the
outside. But nobody knows

what really happened for the
next minute and forty

seconds. I turned around toward
the superintendant rushing out
of the main entrance and

4365

then I saw the tornado. Did you
ever see the tide come in at the bay
of Fundy. It does not sneak in at
little at a time as it does elsewhere.
It rolls in in waves. That's the way
this storm rolled forward over the
town and upon us.

It was on us in almost no
time but I saw it and in the same
glance I saw our superintendant bracing
himself to meet out in the playground.
He was facing the uproaring cloud
with both hands grasping the iron
rods of an exercising instrument hard
to the lower sides his legs apart
and his knees braced back
stiff.

I saw him I say at the same
instant I saw that total devastation
and ruin coming straight at us.

I don't know why but that last
glimpse of poor John Henry grasping
the side rods will stay with me
just as long as I remember the
horror at the Angel Guardian Orphanage
and that will be too long.

The storm hit us like a
thousand dynamite explosions at one
time with a howl and yell I could
not describe to save my life.

It was a hell wind fury coming
through the playground.

Everything instantly went
before it. The buildings
acted as if they were

436 In a mass of wreckage fall-

436 being blown to pieces by dynamite. In another instant all was over for him. As I was looking at him the wind pulled him suddenly from his tight hold and he was flung through the air and against the wall of a disintegrating building.

His clothing was torn off of him. He after landing against the wall fell to the ground with his face towards me.

His mustache and eyebrows were gone in a giffy torn off his face by the inexorable fury of the gale. His hat was gone and his hair was torn off, and so were his clothes from head to foot. I knew he was conscious when he fell by the look in his eyes but if he did make a sound you could hear him because of the awful, terrible confusion of sound made by the terrific storm.

That all happened a long way inside of a minute, then something new happened. When the big storm of wind enveloped us like a homicide of all hell a tidal wave of a counter current of wind came suddenly from another direction and did the rest.

That a wall of rushing
well was so fierce and
savage and seemingly so
like
of

solid - that everything seemed to 4367
rush away with the same velocity
and rush around the wind going the
other way. For an instant we could
see nothing but the clouds of debris
and dust swirling as it seemed in
every direction.

The noise was worse than thun-
der. The tidal wave of
furious wind picked up the buildings
like canoes and smashed them in
all directions. As I said when blown
against a tree the wind jammed
a convent metal ventilator cover over
my head at the same time which
saved me from damage to my
head.

Then the wind grabbed me by
the legs and pulled me from the
tree and threw me through the
air wrenching the ventilator cover
from my head like a tissue paper
hat and flung it out of sight.

I was then flung down and before
I could get up three men and
two children stark naked were
flung on top of me. They were dead.

I again was flung with them
against the tree but grabbing
that big branch hanging
down saved me by my
desperately hanging on though
tossed by the wind it was
swinging me so wildly back
and forth as if it tried to
swing me through the air.

4368 It almost did four times with
four of the most savage swings
and if it had I would ~~be~~ have
been a goner.

Superintendent John Henry went
through the air still clinging to
another outfit he had grabbed. Two
men Daniel Taylor the Asylum
cooper and Garner Kitts followed him
Kitts body being wrapped around a
telephone pole still trying to resist
the wind.

Taylor managed to grasp my
swinging branch against which he
was flung but nothing could
done to save him as the swaying
velocity of the branch flung him
far out of sight. Where the
superintendent went we never knew.
The last I saw of him he was
sailing through the air like a
childs balloon.

I didnt let go of that branch
untill the sudden stopping of
the awful squall, after hanging
on about five minutes and
seeing no more wind was coming
though the heaven was exploded
ing upon us a cloudburst of
rain. I let go and fell to
the ground. My, my, but my
hands were blistered by
that tight grip on the
branch. Then slowly I
rose to my feet.